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WKU Student Affairs

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012 • College Heights Herald • Vol. 88, No. 6 • Western Kentucky University

Sen. McConnell honors Yates

By CAMERON KOCH
news@wkuherald.com

Senator Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., honored one of WKU's own, 1st Lt. Eric Yates, during a senate session on Thursday.



ERIC YATES

Yates was in WKU's ROTC program and was later deployed to Afghanistan, where he was killed in action in September 2010. A granite panel depicting Yates and 13 of his friends in Afghanistan was installed on Guthrie Bell Tower last fall in a Veterans Day ceremony, to which McConnell made reference.

McConnell began by listing the numerous medals and awards Yates had received, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He then proceeded to tell stories of Yates' childhood as told to him by Yates' mother, Kathy Yates.

McConnell, reciting what Eric's mother had told him, spoke of Eric growing up as an everyday boy, with his favorite shows being "Batman" and "Power Rangers."

It was a trip to Washington, D.C., in Summer 2001 and the following 9/11 attacks that changed Yates forever and inspire him to join the military, McConnell said.

SEE YATES, PAGE 3

WKU giving students more time to pay bills

By NATALIE HAYDEN
news@wkuherald.com

WKU's non-payment drop date for students is quickly approaching.

Come Feb. 21, students who have not paid their bills will have a hold put on their account in accordance with a new school policy. Students will have until March 13 to pay their bills.

The new policy is a way to give a little leeway to students who may not realize when their bills are due, said Brian Meredith, associate vice president of Enrollment Management.

"What we are trying to do is increase awareness that students need to pay their bills and settle their balances," he said. "We are increasing communication and allowing some warning time."

The new policy gives a longer grace period to students.

Doug McElroy, associate vice president of Enrichment and Effectiveness, said the new system was created in hopes of benefitting students.

SEE TIME, PAGE 2



Postcrossing allows for
inexpensive world exploration

Seeing the world through your mailbox is now possible with the help of postcrossing.com.

After just two years as a Postcrossing user, WKU alumna Victoria Golden-Thompson has already sent and received approximately 35 to 40 postcards.

"I really look forward to getting the mail," Thompson said. "It is almost like Christmas every day. They never tell you

when you are going to get one."

Postcrossing is a "postcard project," created in 2005 by Paulo Magalhães of Portugal, intended to encourage communication between various people throughout the world, according to its website.

Mt. Washington freshman Shelby Rice just recently took up the Postcrossing hobby.

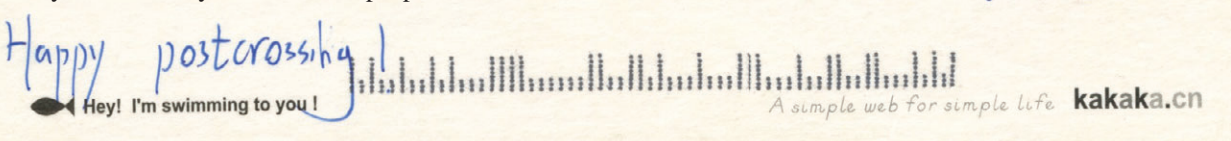
"It's a way to interact with people from

different countries on your own time," Rice said. "You can make something that might not be personal, personal, simply through the fact that it's handwritten."

SEE POST, PAGE 3

By: Sidney Blanford
diversions@wkuherald.com

ID - CN - 483888



Damaged Rock House to be demolished



The Rock House, built between 1850 and 1875, will be torn down within the upcoming months. A recent inspection revealed a termite infestation, wearing down its foundation. President Gary Ransdell suggested that the land may go to additional parking.

By CAMERON KOCH
news@wkuherald.com

In the coming months, a familiar building at the top of the Hill, the Rock House, will come tumbling down.

The building, used as a home base of sorts for the folk studies and anthropology departments, became condemned after an inspection to repair a leaky toilet led to the discovery of a far worse problem — a severe termite infestation.

Damage to the foundation of the building, in addition to water damage, also contributed to the decision to bring the building down.

Darlene Applegate, associate professor for folk studies and anthropology, made heavy use of the Rock House as a lab for cleaning artifacts.

"It didn't surprise me that they made the decision," Applegate said. "The building had declined, and they had just always been talking about it having to go sooner or later."

"It's just a cool building. It has a lot of character."

President Gary Ransdell said the plans are to bring the building down in the near future and possibly put additional parking spaces in its place.

"It's an old building ... and it would cost an awful lot of money to try and restore or rebuild for a very small space," Ransdell said.

He said just because it's an interesting, old building doesn't mean the university needs to spend a lot of money to save it. Though Ransdell said he is in favor of saving and restoring buildings on campus, the Rock House is not worth it due to its small size and small historic significance.

Applegate said she believes if money had been invested earlier rather than waiting until the problem became so serious, the building might have been saved.

SEE HOUSE, PAGE 3

P is for Poet

Student sees world through words

By MARY ANNE ANDREWS
diversions@wkuherald.com

With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, many might try their hand at poetry. But for one WKU student, poetry isn’t about wooing — it’s his way of life.

Last fall, Bowling Green senior Clint Waters won a top 10 spot in the Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing contest hosted by the English Department.

His winning poem is a dark, modern piece called “On Learning the Bible Never Depicts Satan as Red, Horned or Clove-Footed.”

“The poem is about the preconceived notions people have about being gay and how what you think is rarely the case,” he said, who is homosexual and wrote the poem to his boyfriend.

Waters said a lot of his poetry is dark because of the psychological scars he has from his father and brother dying within a year of each other. Poetry is an outlet, he said.

“I do most of my writing when I can’t sleep. Something just hits me — maybe it’s the moonlight,” he said. “But, I worry about sounding whiny. So, I try to write about one issue at a time.”

Waters said WKU has helped him hone his skills as a poet.

“(Associate English Professor) Tom Hunley opened my eyes about how to

find a poem,” he said. “Sometimes a line — or a word — just gets stuck in your head, in your interior monologue, and you build a poem.”

Hunley has taught poetry at WKU for nine years.

“Clint is an outstanding poetry student,” he said. “He is very outgoing and does a great job participating in class. I’d be surprised if he doesn’t publish his poetry.”

With a major in Creative Writing and minor in German, Waters’ dream is to translate works between German and English. But he said he will be satisfied with anything that involves writing.

Waters said most of his writing is based on a cause he sees in the world.

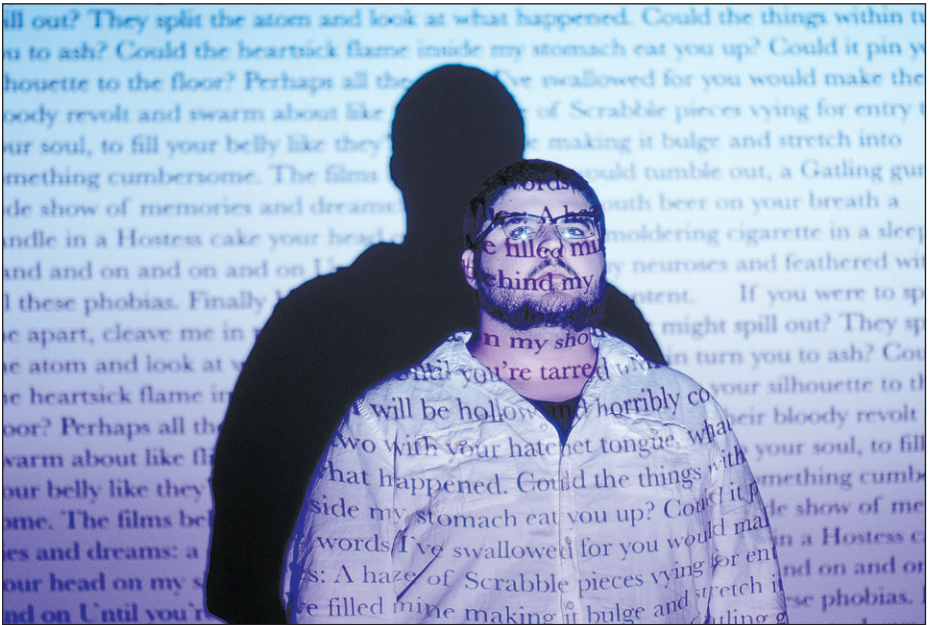
“One day I saw this bumper sticker that just flew all over me, so I wrote ‘America Bleeds God,’” he said. “I like to take a moment or an emotion and try to convey that: not a lot of beginning, middle, end — but a second in my life.”

Waters said his mom, Teresa Blair Reno, is a major encouragement to his work.

“We talk every day,” Waters said. “And she comes to all of my poetry readings.”

Reno owns Teresa’s Restaurant in Bowling Green. She said she teases Waters all the time about how dark his poetry is.

“I just want him to be happy and doing what he wants to do,” Reno said. “I



SHELBY MACK/HERALD

Bowling Green senior Clint Waters pulls inspiration from many places to write his poetry, which is often dark in tone.

want him to be able to make a living and make a difference because I think that’s what we’re here to do — make a difference for someone.”

Reno said she especially likes a poem Waters wrote about his father.

Waters admits he has not been writing very much lately because of the Playstation 3 his mom gave him for Christmas. But he is preparing to study abroad later this semester and said he hopes Germany can be his “Walden Pond.”

“The biggest thing I’ve learned so far is that not everything you write will be amazing, so you shouldn’t get discouraged,” he said. “Young gay writers need to feel comfortable writing about heterosexuality or about things that have nothing to do with sex. People say write what you know, but I think everyone

knows a lot.”

Waters said one of his favorite ways to find inspiration is to look to other writers for a model of how to begin.

“It’s not stealing,” he said. “It’s paying their art homage.”



Each Friday, the Herald brings you a story inspired by a letter of the alphabet.

TIME

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“Not having hard drop dates, but flexible, and also the new policy gives a period of time where students can be reinstated if they come in and pay their bill,” he said.

The old system processed the bills within a week of the payment date, and many students were unknowingly taken off Blackboard, Bursar Belinda Higginbotham said.

Higginbotham said many students would be unable to log in to Blackboard, realize what had happened and come in late to pay their bills. The new policy is trying to prevent this from happening.

“After the Feb. 21 due date, we are placing students on financial warning,” she said. “We

will send students a notice with an extension to get their payment in.”

Students will have until Mar. 13 to pay before they will be kicked off Blackboard and out of classes. Students will still be able to pay until Mar. 26, but afterwards is the “point of no return,” Meredith said.

“Once students are dropped for non-payment, it’s what is called a hard drop,” Higginbotham said. “They won’t be allowed in their classes anymore.”

Meredith said the hard drop policy is needed because letting students in class when they haven’t paid is unfair to students who have paid.

Both Meredith and Higginbotham said the Feb. 21 date is the most important and urge students to pay their bills by then.

Bills can be paid on TopNet or in the Billings and Receivables office.

CRIME REPORTS

Reports

■ Freshman Brittany Lizotte, Pearce-Ford Tower, and freshman Tiara Clarkson, PFT, reported on Feb. 9 that their laptops were stolen from their room. The value of the theft is \$1,800.

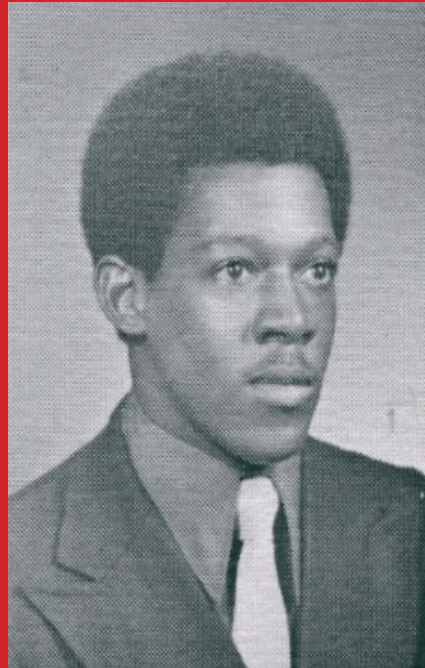
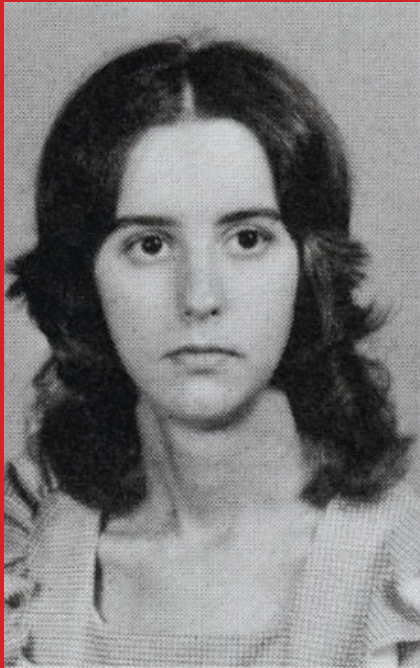
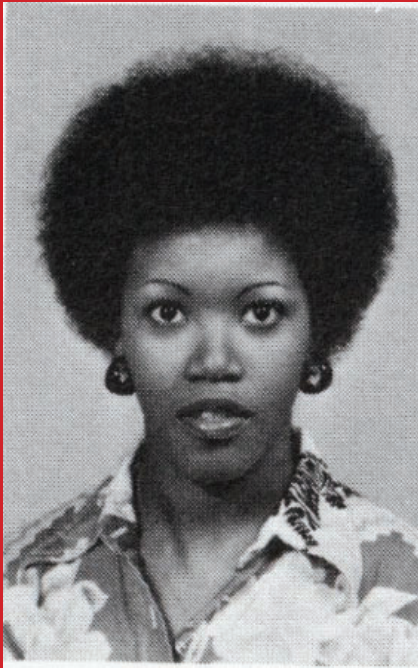
■ Freshman Zackery D. Campoamor, PFT, reported on Feb. 8 that his backpack was stolen from the 27th floor of PFT. The value of the theft is \$350.

■ Sophomore Ejike Ikenna Anyanwu, Washington D.C., reported on Feb. 7 that two of his books and his laptop were stolen at Preston Center. The value of the theft is \$2,150.

■ Freshman Kelsee Marie Buntin, PFT, reported on Feb. 7 that a package sent to her was signed and received by someone else. The value of the theft is \$99.35.

■ Freshman De’Light Dowlen, PFT, reported on Feb. 6 that his backpack was stolen. The value of the theft is \$354.

DON'T BE SHY



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SPRING PHOTO WEEK

MARCH 20-23

TALISMAN@WKU.EDU

POST

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Through the website, you can create a profile stating exactly what it is you hope to gain from the experience. Thompson said her profile asks other Postcrossers to send her anything they want to ensure she doesn't get similar postcards.

"I love to travel, and I love to go to different places," Thompson said. "But I know I will never get to go everywhere."

Thompson has received postcards from all over the world, including places such as China, Sweden and Scotland.

"Not only do you read about their culture and where they live, but you also read their personal stories as well," Thompson said.

Now servicing more than nine million users, Thompson said postcrossing.com is fairly simple to use.

Through postcrossing.com, users request

a random international or local address from the website and then mail out their postcard. Next users must wait for their postcards to be received and registered into the system. Days later, they will receive a postcard in their own mailbox.

"The address I got first was to a woman in New Zealand who has four children that make her cards for her as art projects," Rice said. "For her, it's family bonding, which I found inspiring."

Once Rice's postcard was received by the New Zealand woman and she registered it online using an assigned identification number, Rice was eligible to start receiving her own postcards.

"You get one for every one you send," Thompson said. "I think that way the people who participate are rewarded."

While some people may question how safe the site is, WKU alumna Jessica Vessels has been using postcrossing.com for two years now without any safety issues.

"Your address is only given to someone when it is your turn to receive a postcard. Your address is not public," Vessels said.

Thompson confirmed the site's safety, by saying it is not like Facebook where everyone can see your information. Instead you first request to send a postcard in order to receive an address to send that postcard to.

While users agree postcrossing.com is more confidential than some social media sites, the postcard project does have several social media-like features, such as messaging other users, commenting on their postcards and viewing other users' profiles.

Thompson said a woman from Germany put on her profile that she was collecting the quarters of the United States and then listed each quarter she already had.

"So I sent her about eight quarters, but I didn't tell her they were coming, because what's the fun in knowing they are coming?" Thompson said. "Then she sent me a message back and said, 'That was so nice.

Is there anything you want from Germany?' and I said 'No, I just wanted to surprise you.'"

"I have found that people who write Postcrossing postcards are friendly," Vessels said. "They are interested in sharing information about themselves, their hometowns or their countries."

All of this worldly exploration is not only benefitting the site's users. According to postcrossing.com, the small fee in postage is "contributing to a more efficient postal service."

The benefits don't stop there either. Thompson, Rice and Vessels agree the website gives people an opportunity to put the world into perspective. Thompson even said she thinks it would be a great classroom assignment.

"It would be nice for classrooms to do these things so that kids can get multicultural exposure to learn more about the world outside of where they're at," Thompson said.

YATES

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Yates attended community college before enrolling in WKU's ROTC program. After graduation, he was stationed at

Fort Campbell in the 101st Airborne Division. He was then deployed to Afghanistan.

McConnell read from a letter Yates had written in case he didn't return home, to be read at his funeral.

Yates used the letter

to get across a few of the things he found about in life. First, he told listeners to take a chance, and also wished for everybody to watch the original Star Wars trilogy. He then advised exercise, because it will encourage

self-esteem.

Yates heavily emphasized reading as much as possible and wrote that everybody should do as much as possible to better understand the world around them.

Yates finished his letter

by saying that liquor is better than beer, to save money and always be open to new ideas. He then wished everybody in attendance a safe and happy life.

"It's a great loss ... that 1st Lt. Eric Yates will not have a long and happy

life himself, with the opportunity to share his life and lessons with the people that share that life," McConnell said. "But I am honored to be able to share them now with my colleagues in the United States Senate."

HOUSE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The building, according to Applegate, was built between 1850 and 1875. It has changed hands numerous times, eventually being bought by President Paul Garrett and used as a women's dormitory when WKU was still Western Kentucky State Teacher's College.

Beginning in the 1970s up until 1996, the Rock House served as the International Student Affairs building before being turned over to the anthropology department for lab use.

Students attended class, washed artifacts and joined in on anthropology club meetings in the Rock House.

"The students are attached to the building," Applegate said. "They spend a lot of time over there."

Hope Hawkins, a graduate student in the folk

studies program, is one of those students. As an undergraduate from Cub Run in the anthropology department, Hawkins spent numerous hours working in the house.

"It's part of people's memories," Hawkins said. "That was our anthro lounge."

The anthropology department is currently being housed on the third floor of Tate Page Hall where they have classroom space, lab space and storage areas for artifacts. The move is only temporary, and the plan is to eventually move the department once again into a renovated Grise Hall after the construction of a new business college building.

Hawkins and other volunteers will be moving the vast collection of artifacts housed within the Rock House to the new storage area in Tate Page on Saturday.

"We're trying to see positives, and one of

“It’s part of people’s memories. That was our anthro lounge.”

—HOPE HAWKINS
Graduate student

the positives is we are getting renovated space,” Applegate said.

Ransdell said the department's future space will be renovated to its specific needs.

Applegate said if the house had to go down, this year was a good year to do it, as the department added two new staff members.

"It's the right time to create a new identity with new people," she said. "The new space is a space we can all create together."

Dr. Mike Schmoker

Focus: First Things FIRST for the 21st Century

Designed for Educators and WKU Students, Parents, and Community

Monday, February 13

7:00-9:00 pm

GRH Auditorium

on the campus of WKU

(Parking at Chestnut Street South Lot)


Tuesday, February 14


8:30-11:45 am

Carroll Knicely Conference Center

WKU South Campus

Free and open to the public





Dr. Mike Schmoker is a former school administrator, English teacher and football coach. He has written five books and dozens of articles for educational journals, newspapers and for TIME magazine. He also writes a monthly column for the Phi Delta Kappan.

His most recent book is the best-selling FOCUS: Elevating the Essentials to Radically Improve Student Learning. His previous bestseller is RESULTS NOW: How We Can Achieve Unprecedented Improvements in Teaching and Learning, which was selected as a finalist for "book of the year" by the Association of Education Publishers.

Dr. Schmoker has keynoted at hundreds of state, national and international events and has consulted for school districts and state and provincial education departments throughout the US, Canada and Australia. He now lives in Tempe, Arizona, with his wife Cheryl.

No registration or RSVP is required for either event.

For more information, please contact pamela.petty@wku.edu or 270-745-4664.



tour of italy

February 14

from 11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.



Four Cheese Spinach Lasagna
Roasted Zucchini with Pesto
Chicken Cacciatore
Layered Potato & Cheese Casserole
Italian Green Beans
Spaghetti
Spinach & Pepper Jack Pizza
Gyros
Chopped Italian Salad
Italian Sub
Italian Wedding Soup
Vegetable Minestrone
Limoncello Bread Pudding
Tiramisu Cupcakes

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PHOTO BY ANDREW DUFF

Seating is NOT reserved. Doors open 30 minutes before the beginning of each show. If you are bringing a group of 15 or more persons, please call ahead.

For more information, please contact the WKU Department of Theatre & Dance at (270) 745-5845 or theatreanddance@wku.edu

Website: www.wku.edu/theatre-and-dance

COLUMN

When talking about race, ignorance isn't bliss

There is a video that came out a few days ago that has gone viral called "What do you know about black history?" It features a white man — in blackface — interviewing Brigham Young University students on certain things such as what month Black History Month is in and who important black figures are.



JOANNA WILLIAMS
READING BETWEEN THE LINES
opinion@wkuherald.com

I cringed throughout the entire video and couldn't get through the first minute before I clicked out of it, only to come back a few minutes later when I promised myself not to punch my computer screen.

It brought up a bunch of questions such as: Why do these college age students not know who Martin Luther King is? Why do they think it's wrong for a white man to "act" like a black man? And why, for the love of everything righteous, was the interview done by a guy in blackface?

It seemed as if the creator of the video

had a list of the most offensive things to ask and do and checked them off as the video progressed. Regardless if this is a deliberate attempt at trying to lead people to make ignorant comments, the fact of the matter is that you have college students who think that the rapper 50 Cent is a historical black figure.

After my irritation subsided, I wondered what the response would be from WKU students if the same man came to campus and asked the same questions. After a bit of thinking, I came to the unfortunate conclusion that it would undoubtedly be the same reaction. I know this because I've been in enough classes when the subject of race has come up and have overheard enough sentiment from people in passing to prove that this happening at WKU wouldn't be too far off.

But this isn't really about BYU students or WKU students or who knows more about a national observance month.

This is about how race is something that we never talk about. Instead, we let music videos/news stories and TV shows do the talking for us. The result is problematic and disturbing views on black people, like the students had in the video.

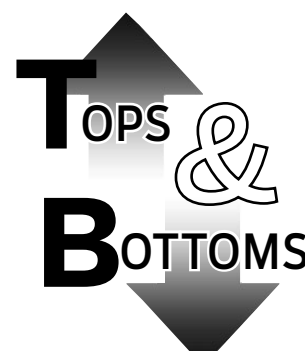
It seems that we don't want to talk about race for the fear that it will make people

uncomfortable or be offensive. So instead of having a much-needed conversation, we stay inside our little bubble and attest to ourselves that racism isn't as problematic as it was in, say, 1963, and that everyone is equal and that we all have the same privileges.

And when our bubble is burst, and a serious conversation begins, we start to hear the ignorant comments or people fumbling over their words because they said something that they didn't mean. It's something I've seen way too many times and it proves we still have a long way to go.

People everywhere need to stop running away from racial conversations or scenarios that constantly arise. Talking about race is really, really hard. I get that. But because something is difficult doesn't mean we have to side-step it.

I think one of the most important things that people can do this Black History Month is not to learn more about Martin Luther King Jr. or learn more black trivia but to have an honest discussion about race. What it is, what it means and to answer whatever questions we may have. It's something we all should do, because if we don't, then videos like the one mentioned above will remain all the more prevalent.



TOPS to Panda Express coming to campus next semester.

BOTTOMS to it not being here soon enough.

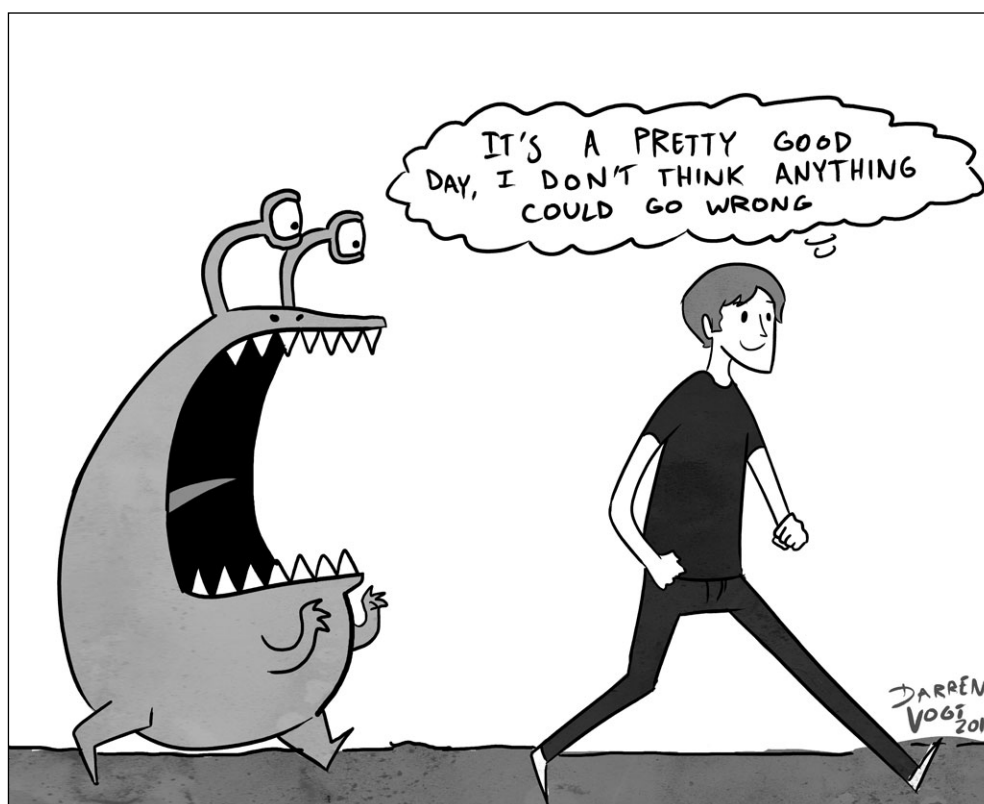
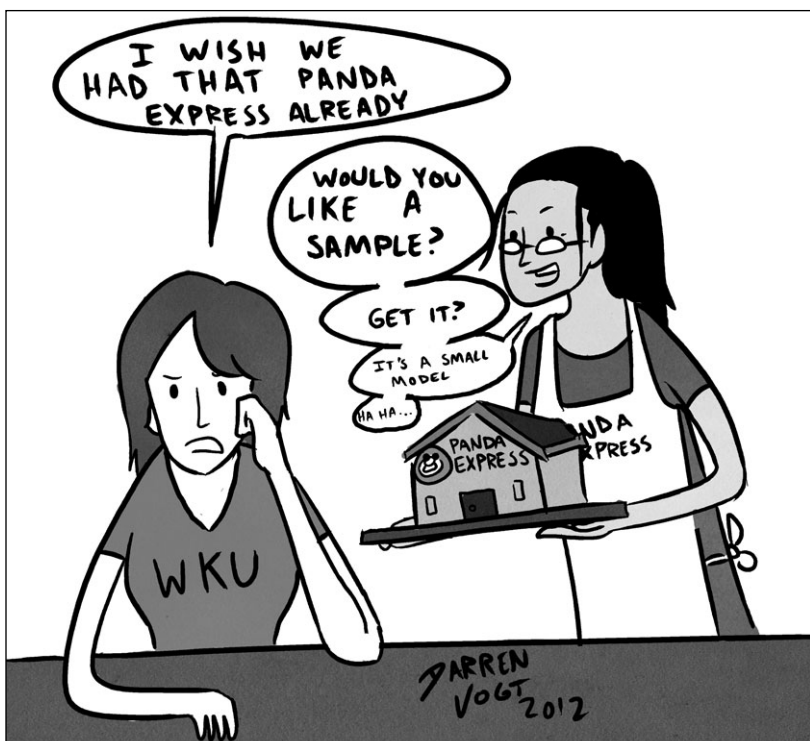
TOPS to WKU being represented at Rally for Higher Education this past week.

BOTTOMS to WKU having only four people show up.

TOPS to the men's basketball team having a season high in attendance last week.

BOTTOMS to the women's team losing their first home game to South Alabama in 26 games.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

Better communication needed during DUC renovations

In Tuesday's article about ICSR keeping its space, it was stated multiple times that the administration did not make their decisions about relocating DUC offices very clear to the public, not even to those directly involved in the process. It seems to me that the administration has gotten carried away, focusing on a finished product (a remodeled building) that is still two years away, instead of paying attention to problems that need solving now.

When the DUC renovations were first proposed, the administration went



ADAM SALMAN
Scottsville Senior

to great lengths to obtain student input though SGA meetings, open forums, and the tables and comment boards that littered the main floor of DUC asking for opinions. In that stage, WKU leaders made it clear that they wanted to make sure that the renovations were in the students' best interests.

Where has that interest gone now that we've moved past planning and are starting to run into real, tangible issues? Students are actively reaching out, contacting as many people within WKU's infrastructure as possible, including the president himself, trying to determine their fate for the next two years (many of them upperclassmen, who are paying fees and undertaking huge inconveniences for a building they'll never get to use), and members of the administrative staff still think that it's acceptable to contact other administrators

and "leave it at that"?

The very first line of the WKU Mission Statement is "Western Kentucky University prepares students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen leaders of a global society." How can WKU students lead a global society if they have trouble getting responses from the administration of their own university? Transparency is the key to social responsibility, which WKU claims is their very reason for existing, and yet it takes students weeks to learn about very basic and important decisions made by staff who work daily with students.

I'm trying to sympathize. I really am. The timelines are short, the deadlines close, and there are literally hundreds of variables to consider, but the single-mindedness with which the administration is pursuing the renovations reminds me more of a despotic autocracy building

itself a new palace to show off than a democracy that is interested in better serving its constituents.

The relocation of DUC offices doesn't have to be a zero-sum game, where some groups "win" and others "lose." We can all benefit from new, shared spaces where collaboration and communication become easier. I don't believe that we should be fighting over who "wins" a space when the goal is to better the university experience for all 21,000 WKU students.

The closed nature of the decisions being made about the relocations aren't in the spirit of WKU, "A Leading American University." It makes me wonder if I want WKU to be a benchmark for other universities — to lead them — if the university can't be bothered to keep its students informed of the inner functioning of policies that very actively affect them.

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The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

1. Letters shouldn't exceed 250 words. Commentaries should be about 500 words and include a picture.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.

3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.
6. Submissions must be received by 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

Four SGA members attend Rally for Higher Education

By TAYLOR HARRISON
news@wkuherald.com

Four members of the Student Government Association attended the Rally for Higher Education in Frankfort on Tuesday to protest a proposed 6.4 percent cut to postsecondary education.

The four SGA members who attended the rally from WKU are Executive Vice President Kendrick Bryan, Director of Information Technology Cory Dodds, Associate Justice Chris Jankowski, and Senator Mallory Treece. President Billy Stephens did not attend the rally due to being in class.

According to the SGA's website, the Rally for Higher Education was deemed an acceptable absence at WKU.

Traditionally, WKU has sent a larger delegation with anywhere from 12 to 30 students, Bryan said.

Bryan said he believes part of the problem with

students not being able to attend was due to the rally being so soon after winter break.

Treece said she signed up because she believed the rally would be a good experience to "rally for something I really care about."

The rally began at noon on Tuesday, but before the speakers began, many of the schools gathered in the foyer of the Capitol Rotunda to cheer for their university. Other universities had T-shirts specially made for the rally and brought their mascots along.

Micah Fielden, student body president at the University of Kentucky, was the first to speak, kicking off the rally.

Fielden said this was the "largest rally we've had in modern times."

The rest of the student body presidents spoke throughout the rally, except for WKU, due to Stephens' absence.

Stephens said he want-

ed to be back in time for the senate meeting later that night in order to help generate legislative ideas. Tuesday's SGA session allowed for several rough drafts for future legislation, he said.

Other universities represented by a speaker were Northern Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Kentucky State University, Murray State University and the University of Louisville.

Some state representatives spoke as well, highlighting the importance of education, including Ryan Quarles, Richard Henderson, W. Keith Hall and Kelly Flood.

Both students and representatives mentioned the idea of uniting all students as one voice to be heard.

Flood, a Democrat from District 75 in Fayette County, said it would be the students' generation that will ultimately solve this problem with



ERIC SHEA/HERALD

Cory Dodds, director of information technology for SGA, waves his red towel at the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort Tuesday during the Rally for Higher Education. With only four SGA members attending, WKU's delegation was smaller than most years and smaller than most other universities in attendance.

"I think the state has done better for education than other states," said Richards, an alumnus of WKU.

However, Richards also said this is the biggest

downturn that has occurred while he's been in office — since 1976.

"I think it's pretty vital to meet with legislators and to share your concerns in the Capitol," Bryan said.

WKU volunteer organizations to unite for recruitment fair

By KAYLA SWANSON
news@wkuherald.com

Student volunteers are encouraging their peers to roll up their sleeves and give back to the WKU community.

On Feb. 14, there will be a service fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DUC Courtyard, where several service organizations will have the opportunity to share information about their respective groups.

"It's a great way that students can easily get involved on campus," said Lexington senior Morgan Mickelson, a student representative of GreenToppers.

Organizations scheduled to attend include FeelGood, Ameri-

cans for Informed Democracy, GreenToppers, Habitat for Humanity, the ALIVE Center and Share A Swipe. Each of these organizations will have a table at the fair where students can talk with group members and receive information about different ways they can volunteer.

"We want to get as many organizations on our campus and in our community involved with the fair," said Louisville junior Meg Kennedy, co-president of AID.

Elizabethtown senior Andrew Gott, a member of three organizations participating in the fair, helped to organize the event.

Gott, a member of AID, GreenToppers and FeelGood, said he no-

ticed that these groups were having trouble gaining students and community interest, so he wanted to do something about it. Gott began contacting other service organizations to generate interest about the fair so a variety of groups could be represented.

Gott said he hopes that as a result of the fair, students will be more aware of service opportunities around campus and the community.

"I am just very passionate about volunteering and helping others, and I imagine there are many others on campus that feel the same way," Gott said. "I feel like helping others is kind of a responsibility we have as college students."

NEWS BRIEF

Sig Ep to host annual philanthropy week

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity hopes to show off their heart this Valentine's Day, while also raising money for their philanthropy.

Proceeds raised from the fifth-annual Sweets Week events will be donated to the organization's philanthropy, YouthAIDS.

"YouthAIDS is an organization that helps people around the world deal with AIDS at a young age," Sig Ep junior Sam Kissinger said. "They will give them medical attention if they need it. It's a great program. We all support it."

The fraternity will kick off the week on Wednesday with a Queen of Hearts pageant. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. at the Downing University Center Auditorium. The price will be \$3 for all Greek affiliates and \$5 for anyone else who would like to attend.

The participants will compete in three areas — letter wear, formal wear and talent.

On Friday, the organization will head to the Blue Dome for a mechanical bull riding contest at 8 p.m.

Those who want to attend are encouraged to be there an hour early for a performance by a local band, The Barren River Trio. The trio is a folk-style band that formed in Bowling Green last year and recently released its first album "American Folk."

— Amanda Young

TAKE A BREAK FOR GOODNESS SAKE!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Main point; essence
 - 5 Traditional nun's wear
 - 10 Wise
 - 14 Peak
 - 15 Ooze out
 - 16 Foreboding sign
 - 17 Rain hard
 - 18 Toothed-leaved birch tree
 - 19 Obey
 - 20 Carve letters
 - 22 Places full of video game machines
 - 24 "___ we there yet?"
 - 25 Swing the arms about wildly
 - 26 Lock, ___ and barrel
 - 29 Marie Osmond, to Donny
 - 30 Uses an old phone
 - 34 Arrived
 - 35 Lower limb
 - 36 Fanatic
 - 37 Gorilla
 - 38 Safer
 - 40 In the past
 - 41 Make invalid
 - 43 Actress Charlotte ___
 - 44 Kuwait's leader
 - 45 Slight amount
 - 46 Comfy room
 - 47 ___Pot; slow cooker
 - 48 Lunch spots
 - 50 Sheep's cry
 - 51 Irresponsible one
 - 54 Continuous
 - 58 List of dishes
 - 59 Equestrian
 - 61 Therefore
 - 62 Killer whale
 - 63 Venerate
 - 64 Acting part
 - 65 Hockey score
 - 66 Gives, but expects back
 - 67 Plant stalk

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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- 7 Flower's start
- 8 High principles
- 9 ___ firma; dry land
- 10 African nation
- 11 Surrounded by
- 12 Trait transmitter
- 13 Finishes
- 21 Noah's boat
- 23 Apple drink
- 25 ___ out; deciphers
- 26 Meager

- 27 Candle
- 28 Greek letter
- 29 Moment, for short
- 31 Texas mission
- 32 Good sense
- 33 Baby carrier?
- 35 Actor Jason ___
- 36 Last letter
- 38 T-bone, for one
- 39 Galloped
- 42 Accumulation
- 44 Pencil ends

- 46 Mock
- 47 Is able to
- 49 Will
- 50 Drills a hole
- 51 Air pollution
- 52 Rescuer
- 53 Peruvian Indian
- 54 Geek
- 55 Horse's gait
- 56 Eye flirtatiously
- 57 "Trees" or "If"
- 60 Actor ___ Knotts

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Three Vanderbilt SAEs face charges in Sigma Nu theft

By **SPENCER JENKINS**
news@wkuherald.com

Three members of the Vanderbilt University chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity could face charges for stealing a fraternity composite picture from the WKU chapter of Sigma Nu.

The fraternity should be getting their composite picture back by Friday, Sigma Nu President Taylor Rousey said.

“We were lucky we had security cameras in our house and we were able to identify them,” he said.

WKU’s SAE chapter

had nothing to do with the incident, President Tom Travis said.

“We didn’t know they were in town and had nothing to do with it,” he said.

Mandi Johnson, public information officer for WKUPD, said in an email that Vanderbilt Police were able to identify the three subjects involved and have taken the stolen property into their possession.

The subjects will be facing a second-degree burglary charge, which is a Class C felony, and theft by unlawful taking from a building, which is a Class D felony.

Johnson said they’ll probably be facing a grand jury in Kentucky where it will be decided if arrest warrants will be issued. Their names haven’t been released because they haven’t been formally charged.

The composite was stolen on Jan. 28 around 3:30 p.m., according to Sigma Nu’s surveillance camera.

Also, according to a Bowling Green police report, Kappa Alpha President Jordan Clark reported an incident of criminal mischief that occurred on Jan. 28. The report said it may

involve the same SAEs from Vanderbilt.

In the report Clark stated that someone came into the KA house and threw a pool ball through the screen of their 42” Vizio television.

There is no evidence to corroborate the claim that SAE was involved, the report said.

“We don’t have any proof of any kind, but we’re trying to look into it,” Clark said. “But there isn’t much we’re going to be able to do.”

The SAE national chapter declined to comment on the incidents based on the amount



SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE FROM SIGMA NU HOUSE

Three SAEs from Vanderbilt University could face charges for stealing a composite photo from the WKU Sigma Nu house.

of information given to them from the Herald, said Brandon Weghorst, director of SAE communication in an email.

Princine Lewis, senior strategist at Vanderbilt News and Communication, said the report has been referred to their office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Corvette museum educating women about cars

By **SIDNEY BLANFORD**
diversions@wkuherald.com

Don’t let your car get the best of you.

Tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the National Corvette Museum will host Powder Puff Mechanics, an afternoon of workshops intended to help women become more car savvy.

Katie Frassinelli has worked to put on this event and will be in charge of registration on Feb. 11.

“We just hope to create more educated consumers of car services and parts,” said Frassinelli, marketing manager of the National Corvette Museum. “We want the attendees to walk away feeling

empowered, like they know what they are buying and getting.”

The seminars will cover a variety of topics from purchasing and changing tires to basic drivers’ education simulators, according to visitbgky.com.

Bob Bubnis, the National Corvette Museum’s Marketing Assistant and Editor of America’s Sports Car Magazine, will be heading one of the sessions presented tomorrow. The course will focus on listening to your car and what to pay attention to when the check engine light comes on.

“This workshop is to help get young people equipped and make the most of their cars,” Bubnis said.

After hearing about the program on

the radio, Kit Tolbert said she decided to register herself and her daughter for Powder Puff Mechanics.

“My dad took me to a series of automotive classes where I learned about my car and felt more comfortable,” said Tolbert, director of housing operations at WKU. “I thought this could help (my daughter) too.”

Although this program was initially started to help local Girl Scouts receive their “fun patch,” Frassinelli said all ages and genders are welcomed.

“When you don’t know, you can’t prepare,” Tolbert said of car emergencies.

The National Corvette Museum does ask people to bring their car’s owner manual with them to ensure they get the

most out of this experience.

The team has been working to narrow down the list of topics to those, which they find to be the most common and most useful.

“Any time people are educated and they go into a situation with knowledge, they will be better prepared to deal with any circumstance,” Bubnis said.

The event will cost \$10 for students and \$12 for adults.

Pre-registration is required for this event and a valid email address must be included. That can be done at <http://www.corvettemuseum.org/kids/scouts.shtml>.

For further information, call 270-467-8852.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Close loss gives Cowles clues to rotation

By BRAD STEPHENS
sports@wkuherald.com

MURFREESBORO, Tenn., — Figuring out the Lady Toppers’ rotation this year hasn’t been easy.

Players like senior forwards Teranie Thomas and Keshia Mosley and sophomore guards Ellen Sholtes and Chaney Means have seen their playing time increase, vanish, then come back.

Head Coach Mary Taylor Cowles has talked all year long about “finding the right combination” when asked about her players’ ever-changing roles.

But after a hard-fought 67-64 loss to Middle Tennessee State on Wednesday in the Murphy Center, WKU’s coach said she may be zeroing in on her team’s right combination.

The Lady Toppers (6-17, 3-8 Sun Belt Conference) went into

Wednesday losers of four straight games, due in large part to second-half collapses in all four contests.

But WKU had no such struggles against MTSU (20-5, 12-0), outscoring the heavily-favored Lady Raiders 37-35 in the second half.

The Lady Toppers came back from a 59-50 hole to take a 62-61 lead in the final minute before MTSU put the game away with six last-minute free throws.

“We didn’t have that lull we’ve had,” Cowles said of the second half. “When I watch this film I’m going to pay close attention to combinations and close attention to time on the clock and who was in the game and how long, because I think there’s a reason for that.”

That late rotation included heavy playing time for senior forward LaTeira Owens and freshman forward Chastity Gooch in the front court, and Means, Sholtes and fresh-

man guard Alexis Govan in the backcourt.

Senior center Jasmine Johnson, senior guard Vanessa Obafemi, freshman guard Danay Fothergill and Thomas all also played key roles down the stretch.

Were it not for the heroics of Lady Raider guard Kortni Jones (23 points, 6-of-12 3-point shooting), that bunch likely would’ve pulled the upset on Wednesday.

“They really played harder than us,” MTSU Head Coach Rick Insell said. “I guess... we thought we were going to come in and Western was going to mail it in... Western came in and did a real good job.”

Even with the improvements WKU showed, the loss was still the fifth straight for the Lady Toppers.

Their next chance to break back into the win column comes at 4 p.m. Saturday against East Division rival Troy (2-20, 1-10).



JUSTIN PHILALACK/HERALD

Sophomore forward Mimi Hill blocks an MTSU layup on Wednesday at the Murphy Center. WKU lost 67-64.

WKU already has one win over the Trojans this season, a 64-38 pummeling of Troy on Jan. 7 in Diddle Arena.

“What we’ve got to do as a bas-

ketball team is take this momentum and apply it one game at a time to finish out this regular season,” Cowles said. “Starting with Troy on Saturday afternoon on the road.”

PERKINS

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

“I’ve always been a leader by example, and I believe in that,” said Perkins, who will start the year as the team’s Friday night starter. “I hope I go out on Fridays and get the team behind me, keep them in the game and let the other guys follow behind me.”

After Perkins and Hageman — the team’s projected Saturday starter — comes a group of pitchers with less experience at the Division I level.

Myers said that junior left-hander Tim Bado, a transfer from Crowder Junior College in Eden Prairie Minn., has locked himself into the Sunday starting role for now.

“They’ve both really helped me transition to the D-1 game,” Bado

said of Perkins and Hageman. “They’ve just helped me on a day-to-day basis to get better and learn from their experiences.”

Myers said sophomore left-hander Austin Clay and freshman left-hander Ian Tompkins will start the majority of the midweek games.

Meanwhile junior right-hander Taylor Haydel, who started 10 games a season ago, has been reas-

signed as a reliever this year to add depth to the bullpen, Myers said.

Four of the Toppers’ five starters throw left-handed which provides a unique advantage for the Toppers.

“No one likes hitting off left-handers,” Myers said. “Left-handers are a premium and such a high commodity. I like having lefties being dominant because it really forces you to think about lineup changes.”

While Myers said he’s excited about the depth of the rotation, he also made it known that depth doesn’t take the place of guys like Perkins and Hageman.

“As much as you want to have depth, aces are titled ‘aces’ for a reason,” Myers said. “There’s a reason guys are known as the No. 1’s of a staff because they’ve kind of separated themselves, and that’s what those two guys have done for us.”

TOPPERS

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

Rousseau, a transfer from Northwest Florida State, recently recovered from a knee injury that limited her ability to practice.

She pitched all seven innings, giving up two home runs and some other hard hit balls, but said she felt comfortable while pitching.

“Coming in after not playing for six months was a little tough,” Rousseau said. “... Pretty much everything was going where I wanted it to go, and it felt like my spin was on point.”

Mattox and junior catcher Karavin Dew also stole bases during the scrimmage, something Head Coach Tyra Perry said WKU will do more of this year.

In 59 games last season, WKU was successful on 57 of 77 stolen base attempts.

“We’re going to run a lot,” she said. “We’re going to try to push the envelope and take a little more risk early on to see what we can do.”

Perry said she was especially excited by the speed of sophomore infielder Olivia Watkins.

“Olivia Watkins is our fastest kid on our team,” Perry said. “She has true speed. So we’re hoping to see her really blossom and steal a lot of bases for us this year.”

Watkins stole seven bases on eight attempts last season.

Though the first set of games includes the Saturday doubleheader, Mattox said the team will be too excited for the start of the season to get fatigued.

“We train our bodies and our minds to get ready for a 56-game season,” she said. “Early in the season we’re ready to play, so we might be on adrenaline.”

CROOK

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

“Now, we’re down seven or eight, we battle back and get a three, four-point win. I think that’s a big change for us, having him as a definite point guard leader that we really didn’t have in the beginning of the year.”

Crook’s growth into a leader is just one part of a massive evolution in his entire game.

His passing skills were never doubted. He averaged 1.6 and 3.6 assists per game in his first two years respectively and leads the team this season with a 2.5 assists per game average this season.

But his scoring was a different story.

He went from averaging 2.2 points and 3.6 points per game in his first two years to becoming WKU’s second-leading scorer this season with a 9.1 points per game average.

His career-high before this season was 11 points.

He had reached double figures 12 times this season prior to WKU’s Thursday night game against Middle Tennessee State, which was played after press time.

Crook said once the majority of the team’s scoring left after last season, he knew he needed to step up.

Now he’s equipped with the ability to pass and score.

“Coming in, I had to play that role as point guard — just getting everyone involved,” he said. “Now the sky’s the limit. I can do both.”

BOWLS

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

“We’ve got to get more primary agreements and we’ve got to get more secondary agreements,” Bjork said. “And the window to do that right now is closed.”

Bjork said several sites were talked about as bowl tie-ins which would “make sense” for the league, including the BBVA Compass Bowl in Birmingham, Ala.

But there's a chance some of those bowls won't

exist when the next bowl cycle rolls around.

One proposal would require seven wins for bowl eligibility, as opposed to the current minimum record of 6-6.

That model would accommodate teams with winning records like the 2011 WKU squad, which was shut out of a bowl while 14 teams with six wins were selected.

But the decreased number of eligible teams would logically decrease the number of bowl games.

Bjork said he favors a model in which 6-6 teams

could be selected — but only after all teams with winning records have been accommodated.

Whatever changes occur to the bowl system go in part through WKU President Gary Ransdell.

Ransdell represents the Sun Belt as part of a 12-member BCS Oversight Committee which has final say on bowl matters.

That committee will meet several times over the next few months to discuss bowl models before bidding out a package to television networks, Rans-

dell said.

“It’s a very fluid process but one that’ll be important in defining the future of the BCS,” Ransdell said.

Bjork said the automatic qualifier status which gives the Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pacific-10 and South-eastern Conferences easier access to BCS bowls will reportedly be eliminated, helping leagues like the Sun Belt.

Middle Tennessee State Athletics Director Chris Massaro said he hopes that elimination of the AQ will open the door for Sun Belt

teams to play in big, revenue-producing bowls.

“I want to make sure that conferences like ours ... have got meaningful postseason if somebody goes 12-0,” Massaro said. “No. 1, let’s take care of the top.”

Bowl discussions have taken place during a transitional phase for the Sun Belt, as Commissioner Wright Waters is retiring this summer.

Waters’ replacement has yet to be named.

Bjork said that has put discussions about early invitations on hold.

Last year, the New Orleans and GoDaddy.com Bowl bids were given to Louisiana-Lafayette and Arkansas State in late November, though WKU still had a chance to win the league.

“I think people know how we feel about it, and we’ll address some of those things with new leadership in the conference,” Bjork said. “Wright’s done a great job of growing football, but some of the new ideas honestly just need to wait until we have a new commissioner.”

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MEN'S BASKETBALL



Junior guard Jamal Crook dribbles at the top of the key during WKU's 75-66 win over South Alabama at Diddle Arena Feb. 4. Crook scored 24 points against the Jaguars on 9-of-10 shooting.

COOPER BURTON/HERALD

Stepping up

Crook harnessing leadership role for Tops

By COLE CLAYBOURN
sports@wkuherald.com

Sometimes all someone needs is an opportunity. Jamal Crook just needed his opportunity to lead.

The junior point guard was thrust into a leadership role at the beginning of the season by default because he was one of the lone upperclassmen on a team with seven freshmen.

After an injury to freshman point guard Kevin Kaspar on Jan. 21 against Arkansas State, the once role player turned prolific scorer was now in a position where he really needed to lead.

But Crook said he didn't feel like he needed to step up — he wanted to.

"I signed up for the point guard position. I think the point guard is very important to the basketball team," he said. "The point guard has to take on that leadership role no matter what — no matter who's on a team. The point guard has to be that vocal leader that drives the car."

Right now, Crook has the keys to that car and they're his to give up.

Interim Head Coach Ray Harper said Crook is the unquestioned leader of the team after he scored a career-high 24 points and dished out six assists

in WKU's 75-66 win over South Alabama on Saturday to give WKU its third win in four games.

"He's the guy that I said, 'Look, we need a leader — it's yours,'" Harper said. "That's why we're playing like we are right now."

Freshman forward Vinny Zollo pointed to Kaspar's injury as a turning point for Crook solidifying a leadership role.

"I think he knows, 'I'm our point guard now,'" Zollo said. "You hate to see Kevin go out, obviously. But with Jamal, it's, 'This is my job. I'm the one that's going to have to do it full time now.' I think with that comes a lot of confidence in itself, maybe self-retained confidence."

Crook is usually the first one to grab players and organize a huddle after a play, Zollo said.

It's a simple thing — organizing players to regroup. But Zollo said having someone take charge in those brief huddles has helped the team stay focused, especially late in games.

"You never saw that a lot of times before this three-game win streak or anything before that," Zollo said Wednesday. "When we would go down, we'd be down eight or nine points, and that'd be the game. It would end up being a 17-point loss."

SEE CROOK, PAGE 7



WKU's game against Middle Tennessee State on Thursday was played after the Herald's print deadline. Go to wkuherald.com for full coverage from Murfreesboro.

FOOTBALL

More bowls priority for Sun Belt ADs

By BRAD STEPHENS
sports@wkuherald.com

WKU found itself without a bowl last season despite a 7-5 record.

That scenario could play out again for the Toppers and other Sun Belt Conference teams before 2014.

Sun Belt athletic directors discussed potential changes to the bowl system last week in New Orleans.

WKU Athletic Director Ross Bjork said "the first priority" for the league is getting more bowls with Sun Belt ties. Currently the New Orleans Bowl and the GoDaddy.com Bowl in Mobile, Ala., have primary tie-ins with the league, and bowl tie-ins cannot be re-allotted until the current Bowl Championship Series cycle ends after the 2013 season.

SEE BOWLS, PAGE 7

SOFTBALL

Lady Toppers start season Friday in S.C.

By HASANI GRAYSON
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Practicing various in-game situations was a critical part of WKU's inter-squad scrimmages this week.

With the roster split in half for the scrimmage, the coaching staff was looking to test their players by changing the score, number of outs and pitch counts.

The different in-game scenarios created tests for players at all positions leading up to the Lady Toppers' season opener against Cleveland State at 9 a.m. Friday in Columbia, S.C., at the Palmetto Classic.

WKU will also face Winthrop (9 a.m. Saturday), South Carolina (11:30 a.m. Saturday) and Tennessee State (9 a.m. Sunday).

Sophomore outfielder Kelsie Mattox, who batted .331 last year with eight homeruns and 36 RBIs, said she doesn't know a whole lot about the teams the Lady Toppers are facing, but she is confident WKU will be prepared.

"I know we'll get a great scouting report from our coaches," she said. "But we're pretty much doing the same approach we had last year: being aggressive, and when we do get in the hole, continuing to trust ourselves and our swings."

Sophomore pitcher Emily Rousseau proved to be one of the Lady Toppers' standouts during the team scrimmage.

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BASEBALL

Perkins, Hageman to anchor 2012 staff

By KURT CARSON
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WKU will lean heavily in 2012 on a 1-2 punch it boasts at the top of its starting rotation.

The Toppers returns the duo of junior left-hander Tanner Perkins and sophomore right-hander Justin Hageman to their rotation for the second straight year.

Perkins was named second-team All-Sun Belt Conference in 2011 while Hageman earned the league's freshman of the year award.

Head Coach Matt Myers said he expects Perkins and Hageman to be a top 1-2 combination, with the experience they have helping them improve upon last year's results.

"I think that experience is invaluable,"

said Myers, who previously served as WKU pitching coach.

"You can't teach that. That experience of them being out there, going through their routines, getting their consistency and learning every week I think has allowed them to be potentially a very dominating two-man punch in the front of the rotation."

Perkins posted a record of 7-4 last season and a 2.36 ERA that was best in the Sun Belt. Hageman finished his freshman season with an 8-5 record that accompanied a 3.22 ERA.

As the veteran of the rotation and the most experienced pitcher on the staff, Perkins said he expects himself to be a team leader.

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COOPER BURTON/HERALD

Junior left-handed starting pitcher Tim Bado, center, laughs with teammates during practice on Feb. 8 at Nick Denis Field. Bado has, as of now, secured a spot as the Toppers' Sunday starter.

2012 starting rotation

Friday:

■ Soph. LHP Tanner Perkins

Saturday:

■ Fr. RHP Justin Hageman

Sunday:

■ Jr. LHP Tim Bado

Midweek:

■ Soph. LHP Austin Clay

■ Fr. LHP Ian Tompkins

